

# Horizons

SPRING 2017

*The Customer Newsletter of the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority*

## Rates to Remain Stable for 2017!

The Authority Board of Commissioners is pleased to report that water and sewer rates will remain stable for 2017. This will mark the fifth consecutive year that the Authority's conservative budget has not warranted a rate increase. A large part of this is due to our continuing efforts to control spending and the Authority's refunding of high interest rate debt. In addition, over the years the establishment of a Rate Stabilization Fund provides a moderate cushion for unforeseen expenses.

The Authority's water and sewer rates continue to be among the lowest in Ocean County.

## Continued Drought Conditions in our Region Spark Voluntary Water Conservation Measures

In accordance with NJDEP Administrative Order No. 2016-10, Ocean and Monmouth Counties are now under a **DROUGHT WARNING**. Brick Utilities encourages its customers to voluntarily conserve water where possible, especially outdoors for activities and other water-dependent activities in and around the home. Some easy and effective water conservation tips to consider:

- Use a low-flow showerhead, you can save 15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower. Also consider taking shorter showers.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- If you still have a standard toilet, which uses close to 3.5 gallons a flush, you can save by retrofitting or filling your tank with something that will displace some of that water, such as a brick. All of those flushes can add up to nearly 20 gallons a day down the toilet.
- Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from laundry. Save water by making sure to adjust the setting on your machine to the proper load size.

*Continued on page 3*





## Brick Utilities Plans for Major Upgrade to Water Treatment Plant

Brick Utilities is embarking on a major upgrade to its water treatment process which will continue to enhance water quality. In accordance with the Water Supply Master Plan, the upgrade will introduce an advanced form of water treatment called Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration. GAC is widely considered to be among the best available

drinking water treatment technologies available, particularly for water systems that rely on surface water such as the Metedeconk River and Brick Reservoir.

GAC is made from natural materials with high carbon content such as wood, coal or coconut shells. It is highly effective for removing a wide variety of materials from drinking water that would otherwise pass through conventional treatment. The enhanced treatment will provide numerous water quality benefits such as improving treatment efficiency, reducing undesirable tastes and odors, and removing trace levels of man-made chemicals found in the environment which are a growing concern across the U.S.

The design of the treatment system is currently underway and is expected to take approximately 18-24 months to complete. Brick Utilities is investing in this important project as part of its mission to provide the safest and highest quality drinking water to the residents of Brick Township and surrounding communities.

Brick Utilities makes water quality its highest priority. GAC filtration is a forward-looking technology that will serve as an additional protective barrier in our treatment process and also help ensure our water quality meets potential drinking water standards in the future. The upgrade is one of Brick Utilities' numerous initiatives aimed at ensuring a healthy and reliable water supply, such as comprehensive daily water quality testing from the source to the tap, long-term water supply planning, Metedeconk River watershed management, and scientific research.

## Brick Utilities Receives NJDEP Environmental Stewardship Award



Sunflower fields at the Brick Reservoir attract certain beneficial birds and insects to the Reservoir, creating an attractive and functional partnership.

Brick Utilities is pleased to announce the receipt of an Environmental Stewardship award from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) under their Environmental Stewardship Program Initiative. This award recognizes the voluntary and proactive measures taken by the Authority to improve the environment and ensure a sustainable future beyond the minimum requirements of existing rules and regulations. Areas of recognition, include water conservation, green building implementation, community outreach, business mentoring, and environmental policy.

The Authority's efforts in this regard include our Watershed Protection Program that involves working with the upstream communities to protect and restore the Metedeconk River, construction of rain gardens to reduce storm water runoff through absorption back into the ground, and use of rain barrels to collect rainwater used to water plants and flowers throughout the property.

## MUA Upgrades Emergency Generators to Provide for Increased Resiliency

In March of this year the Authority completed the installation of three 1250 KW diesel emergency generators adjacent to the water treatment plant. While the Authority utilizes JCP&L for our primary electrical power supply, emergency generators are essential to ensure that power outages do not interrupt the production of water for our customers. During Hurricane Sandy the Authority was able to continually provide water to our customers while operating on our emergency generators for ten days.

The new generators are designed for any future modifications to our water treatment facility. They are housed inside enclosures that are designed to reduce engine noise to an acceptable level in consideration of our neighbors on Forge Pond Road and in the Laurelbrook community. In addition, the new generator engines operate more efficiently and burn cleaner.



The new 1250 KW diesel Generators now in operation at the Authority Complex .

## COMING SOON! Quarterly Bills Delivered Electronically!



In response to inquiries by our customers the Authority is in the process of developing an E-bill system that will have the ability to electronically deliver quarterly bills to customers that prefer this method. This will be particularly convenient for those customers who do not reside in their homes during the winter months. Additional information will be provided as to the start date of this new program!

### *Water Conservation Tips Continued from Page 1*

- Dishwashing is a relatively small part of your water footprint—less than 2% of indoor use—but there are always ways to conserve. Using a machine is actually more water efficient than hand washing, especially if you run full loads.
- Turn off water when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Do **not** use a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.



## *A Message from the Chairman*



### Board of Commissioners

**Gregory M. Flynn, Chairman**  
**James Fozman, Vice Chairman**  
**Thomas C. Curtis, Secretary**  
**Susan Lydecker, Treasurer**  
**Maria Foster, Asst. Sec./Treas.**  
**William Neafsey, Alternate**

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**Chris A. Theodos,**  
**PE, PP, CME, CPWM, CFM**  
*Executive Director*

I was appointed to the Board of Commissioners in February 2015 and have been given the honor by my fellow Commissioners of serving as Authority Chairman for 2017.

Prior to 2015, my knowledge of the operations of our water utility was limited to job site installations. However, once I got a look behind the scenes, I was more impressed than anyone can imagine by the technology and expertise that goes into producing our water. The Authority continues to be an organization of dedicated professionals with the shared responsibility of ensuring that our customers receive the highest quality water.

I am happy to announce that for the fifth consecutive year there will not be an increase in water and sewer charges. This is due to the continuing efforts of staff to control spending, implementing cost savings programs with the Township of Brick and other municipalities, and bulk sales to our surrounding neighbors. It is my great pleasure as both the Chairman and a resident of Brick Township to be associated with such a well run and innovative organization.

Thank you for being a customer of the Brick Utilities.

Gregory M. Flynn, Chairman

**PUBLIC MEETINGS** are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. at our Main Administration Building. For a complete schedule of Public Meetings and other information regarding the Authority please visit our website at :

[www.brickmua.com](http://www.brickmua.com)



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